



File Code: 1950
Date: January 19, 2016

Dear Interested Party:

The Payette National Forest has concluded the environmental assessment process and has issued a Decision Notice approving the Golden Meadows Exploration Project. I signed the decision on January 14, 2016 following resolution and subsequent withdrawal of objections and conclusion of consultations. The Decision Notice is posted on the project webpage at <http://www.fs.fed.us/nepa/fs-usda-pop.php/?project=37756>.

The project is located on the Krassel District, Payette National Forest, in the Stibnite-Yellow Pine Mining District in central Idaho, approximately 14 miles east of Yellow Pine in Valley County, Idaho. The proposed exploration drilling areas are located in Sections 1 - 3, 10 - 15, Township 18 North, Range 9 East, and Section 35, Township 19 North, Range 9 East, Boise Meridian.

My decision will implement a modified proposed action to conduct exploration drilling operations on approximately 128 drill pads in 24 drill areas. Associated activities would include the authorization to use approximately 3.8 miles of existing temporary road, construction of 0.3 miles of new temporary road, and expansion of an existing borrow source to approximately 1-acre. My decision incorporates design features, operational requirements, and environmental protection measures to reduce the risk of adverse impacts. The project is administered in compliance with regulation at 36 CFR 228 subpart A that guide Forest Service management of surface resources associated with mining.

Implementation of this decision is scheduled to begin immediately after the revised Plan of Operation is accepted by Midas Gold and bonding requirements are fulfilled.

Please contact Forest Geologist, Jim Egnew, at 208-634-0756 for additional information about this project.

Sincerely,

ANTHONY B. BOTELLO
DISTRICT RANGER

